

1-27-95

'Real' Hawaiians need to act

By David Hanaloa Helela

In case you haven't noticed, all of the major Hawaiian rights activist groups have come out against the plebiscite now being organized by the Hawaiian Sovereignty Elections Council. What that means is the chances of its failure have just gotten better. And failure could mean civil war!

AT A recent *Hui Na'auao*-sponsored forum in Lihue, the heavy hitters gathered to vent their opposition to the vote on sovereignty. Hayden Burgess, a member of the elections council who happens to favor total independence — like every other panelist at this meeting — believes that we should not "count the votes instead of weighing the voices."



Helela

I didn't get his utopian logic at all. Mililani Trask claimed the whole affair is a loser and circulated a flyer (which she's also sending to her 23,000 *Ka Lahui* members) telling everyone to "bum" their ballot. Kekuni Blaisdell declared that his organization will boycott the election. Another, representing "Bumpy" Kanahele's organization, said it was all a waste of money that would be better spent on education.

As political developments go, once inspired by the fire of change, momentum alone often achieves what the cold water of reality fails to cool or put out completely. Sometimes one man's frustration is another man's revolution. And so goes the Hawaiian sovereignty movement.

TO SAY we have a problem is an understatement. I know a lot of heads are nodding right now. Yes, there it is again, that ancient malady common to the Hawaiian people: The 'Alamihī Syndrome. You know, the one where Hawaiians are like crabs in a bucket that pull down



anyone who tries to get ahead, or out of the damn bucket! But I think this dilemma is serious, and real Hawaiians (the silent majority?) need to do something quick.

Lessons of the past are apparently lost on these protagonists. It was not through revolution that more than 300 American Indian and Eskimo tribes had their sovereignty granted by the U.S. government. Yet they steer their dangerous course.

WHETHER THEY know it or not, their implacable stand on the plebiscite sends all the wrong signals that could very well foul up the process even if a big enough vote is obtained. The least of that is a United States Congress that will not support less than a consensus on sovereignty for native Hawaiians. The worst is a frustrated assembly that turns to a war of independence. Not possible? Consider the following:

These people are confused about some things and, because they are effective shapers of public opinion, that makes them dangerous. First, they are confused about their identity. They are royalists who claim a direct lineage to the old chiefs, even to Kamehameha himself!

Yet they'll tell you they're only working for the benefit of the common people. Makes you wonder about what benefits they hope to accrue to themselves.

SECOND, THEY'RE confused about their history. Did you ever think that the white man was the only culprit in the demise of the Hawaiian nation? The activists would like you to believe that. But check it out: The chiefs are as guilty of greed as their white brothers!

The conduct of our Hawaiian

chiefs from first contact with the West was not *pono* (right, balanced). Had it been, they would have thrown every available warrior and the might of the nation against any invasion of their land and way of life. Of course the opposite happened, and more.

FINALLY, THESE activists flat-out fail to understand the profound feeling that Hawaiians have for American ideals. They believe all Hawaiians share their bitterness toward Americans.

On the contrary. Real Hawaiians learned well the lessons of a free society and are convinced that the American way is best. While many of our brothers and sisters today may suffer economic, political and spiritual shortfalls, we know, nevertheless, that our chance for a better future lies in the legal system of a democratic society. Reparations, return of ceded lands, guarantees of sovereignty and self-determination can all be achieved through appropriate appeals to the moral conscience of the United States.

No, there won't be a bloody revolution or war of independence. But should it come to that I think real Hawaiians will fight on America's side, as tragic as that may be.

IT SADDENS me that *Hui Na'auao* has failed its mission. It was a grand effort that was taken over by the voices of dissent and opposition; the common people stayed away and lost out in the end. Apathy, my friends, is the evil that threatens again and the elite will decide our future if we don't act.

So that we don't lose everything, real Hawaiians need to get out and vote in the plebiscite for sovereignty and for a sensible form of government in the new Hawaiian nation.

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Sperm banking and the law

BOSTON — The lawmakers of Louisiana never planned for the partridge of Judith Hart. When they wrote the laws of legitimacy, any child born to a widow a year after her husband's death would have been cause for scandal, not for cele-



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from the grave. Discourage those who would achieve genetic immortality by leaving their reproductive tissue behind. An egg or a vial of sperm may seem like a gift to one surviving partner and feel like a moral obligation, even a burden, to